

U.S. Serial Number: 10/699,232
Reply to Office Action of: 06/23/05
Family Number: P2001J013-US2

Page 6 of 7

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, as amended, are presented for examination.
Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the present application, claims 1, 17-19, stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Glaser et al., U.S. 3,136,711. Claims 2-15 stand object to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The amended claims define over the prior art. The present invention is limited to a temperature heating range of 40°C and 60°C. This is a mild heating range. Support for this range may be found on page 13, paragraph [0026] and page 14, paragraph [0027] of the specification. Figure 9 shows that disaggregation of the asphaltenes, as indicated by neutron scattering, occurs at mild heating temperatures 40°C to 60°C.

In contrast, the cited reference discloses a substantially higher temperature range, that is, "the temperature to which the crude is heated should be sufficiently high to melt all the wax present and to disperse the asphaltenes and resins." This temperature range is given in the reference as between 160°F (71.1°C) and 220°F (104.4°C).

Applicants believe that the claims now present in this application to be patentable and that this application is in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully requested. If any questions or issues remain, the resolution of which the Examiner feels would be advanced by a conference, he is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number noted below.

U.S. Serial Number: 10/699,232
Reply to Office Action of: 06/23/05
Family Number: P2001J013-US2

Page 7 of 7

Respectfully submitted,



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☐ Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.34(a)

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